



# The University High School SCHOOL NEWS

Number 4 June 2003

## AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS WEEK

Jason Yin

During the term one break, I was honoured to be chosen by the school to participate in the 2003 Australian Business Week. This prestigious program was hosted at the Deakin Management Centre on the Geelong campus and is aimed at developing the entrepreneurial and small business culture of young Australians.

Across Victoria sixty students from independent and non-independent schools were selected to participate in the one-week intensive residential course where teams of ten students with the support of a teacher mentor and a business mentor formed a company. The 'companies' had a \$6 million operating budget and through the use of a computer simulation, we had to take our organizations through the equivalent of a two-year business cycle. The competition between the six teams was fierce; not only did we battle against each other to be market leaders in the computer simulation, we were also judged on four other criteria: team building activities (our ability to synergize and participation in

morning recreation such as morning jogs and tai bo!), a mock trial at the Geelong Magistrates Court, promotional marketing activities (which included a trade display and the making of a video advertisement of our company) and finally a communication component (production of an annual report as well as holding an annual shareholders' meeting to three hundred and more guests).

The program proved to be an invaluable experience as it had taught me the importance of 'synergy', which determines whether you are a 'team of champions' or a 'champion team', the latter of which we hope to achieve. My ability to manage people and time was also put to the test as decision-making needed to be swift and human resources often limited. Overall, the week gave me the opportunity to experience first hand a glimpse of the business world as well as offering me a chance to implement what I have learnt so far. I wish to thank Deakin University's Faculty of Business and Law and University High School for making it all possible.

## THE AUSTRALIAN CAREERS SERVICE - FUTURE FINDER

Future Finder is a personalised career information service for 14-17 year olds that provides tailored information on further education, skills, training, jobs and careers. Interested students

can register with [www.futurefinder.com.au](http://www.futurefinder.com.au) and they will receive free of charge a personalised careers website, as well as the latest career information.

### IN THIS ISSUE

Calendar	2
Principal's Report	3
Chess Championship	3
Working Party Reports	4
Science News	6
Sports Highlights	6
Backstage Sparkies	7
Books in the Library	7

## NEW CALEDONIA: 2004

The School is currently considering an eight-day excursion to New Caledonia towards the end of term one in 2004. The excursion is open to students of French in years 10, 11 and 12. A group with a minimum of fifteen students and a maximum of twenty students is accompanied by two teachers. The focus of the excursion is immersion in French language and culture and it generally costs about \$1,500 per student.

At this early stage, we are trying to get an indication of the number of students interested in participating. Could you please contact Ms. Bozyk or Dr. Benson on 9342 2022 if you wish to express an interest that is in no way binding at this stage.

### PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Now Open - Entry Free  
Cash Prizes  
Sponsored by



[www.mcmanusarchitects.com.au](http://www.mcmanusarchitects.com.au)

## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

### June

- Friday 20: Student-free day - Report writing.  
Monday 23: Work Experience begins for all year 10 and 9S3 students.  
Friday 27: Last day of Term Two, 2:30pm dismissal.

### July

- Monday 14: Term Three begins.  
Wednesday 16: Musical rehearsal camp begins.  
Tuesday 22: VCE parent/teacher interviews.  
Tuesday 29: Australian Mathematics Competition.

### August

- Monday 4: Years 7 - 10 parent/teacher interviews.  
Wednesday 6 - Friday 8:  
School musical production, "Hot Mikado"  
Sunday 17 - Friday 22:  
Snow Camp - whahoo!  
Thursday 28: Year 10 parents and students Information Evening.

## SPORTS DATES

Sports days are coming up fast. All students need to make sure that permission forms are submitted to the PE office at least one day before the event. Students must also ensure that they wear UHS sports uniform on the day.

- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June - Year 7 Sport Day  
Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June - Northern Zone Cross Country  
Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June - Year 8 Sport Day  
Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June - Northern Zone Senior Hockey

## SCHOOL NEWS PUBLICATION DATES

Your copy of School News should arrive in your letter box on or around the following dates:

Term Three:	August 1	August 29
Term Four:	October 24	November 21

The deadline for contributions for the next edition is: Wednesday July 23

## PARENTS' ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

The UHS Parents' Association meets in the school staff common room at 7:30 pm. All parents are welcome.

Next Meetings: Monday July 14  
Monday August 4

## SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETINGS

The UHS School Council meets in the school staff common room on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm.

Next Meetings: Wednesday June 25  
Wednesday July 23  
Wednesday August 20

# THE PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Ms Bronwyn Valente

## SCHOOL EVENTS

The Open Afternoon on Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2003 for prospective parents of the school was attended by approximately 350 people. There have also been eight Information Tours during the term to provide an opportunity to visit. This increasing interest in enrolment at the school continues to place significant enrolment pressure on the school.

The Mid Year Concert on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2003 was an extremely successful event. The talented performances of students, supported by the hard work of teachers, parents and students are impressive. Congratulations to all performers.

On the Curriculum day of June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2003, staff will be discussing the Innovations and Excellence program and future directions for Year 10 curriculum and structure.

The VCE examination and GAT will also be in progress this week. I hope all students are preparing carefully.

## SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

The first meeting of the parent participation working party has occurred and currently there are six parents and two teachers working together. Ms Susie Orzech is chairing the group and would welcome any suggestions or comments.

The Building and Grounds sub-committee has been focussed on the Hall upgrade and monitoring progress on the GTAC building. By the end of this year, approximately \$90,000 will have been spent on improving and upgrading the facilities in the Hall. These will not be immediately obvious as the first priority has been safety issues, back stage, creating a drama classroom space on the stage, new curtains and lights. Council will then consider further ways of improving the seating and amenities.

Education and Planning has been discussing the Innovations and Excellence Initiative. The Cluster of seven schools is now well established. The secondary

educator, Ms Ann Donoghue, has been appointed for two days per week, a facilitator, Ms Clare Ryan, for two days and a primary educator will be appointed shortly.

Plans for projects at this school and across schools are developing and some exciting ideas are being discussed. A report of progress to date will be placed in the next School News.

Ms Rosalind Betson has led this development across the Cluster and is congratulated for her work.

Finance committee also meets regularly to monitor expenditure and consider budgeting issues. It has been very pleasing that once again this year voluntary parent contributions have been supported by a great majority of parents and the targets set by Council have been met. Thank you to all families who supported the school in this manner.

## VICTORIAN SECONDARY SCHOOLS TEAMS CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr Stephen Paatsch

Four teams from The University High School contested the first round of the Victorian Championships on June 4 this term. The all-day zone competition allowed our students to compete against nineteen other teams from surrounding schools. It was wonderful to see each of our twenty-two students play with such a high level of enthusiasm and concentration for the whole day.

Team A veterans Gordon Lindberg, Douglas Lindberg and Matthew Doidge were joined by Uni High newcomers Alex Danishyar, Svetozar Stojic, and Dusan Stojic. The team achieved a perfect score for the day and will now progress to the State Championships (A Division) in September.

And joining them on the day will be our B Team. Minh-Phuc Le, Han-Liang Gan, Ray Komatsu, Wang Chun Wei, and Tian Xu held on in a tight finish to also progress to the A Division Finals.

Our two other teams of younger players also experienced some terrific competition and successes and we look forward to seeing them continue to play and compete over the coming years.

Congratulations to each of the competitors and we look forward to seeing our top two teams contest the state championships soon. Thanks also to Ms Pam Fragiaco for her enthusiastic support of all things Chess on the day.

## WORKING PARTY REPORTS

This month...

### MANAGED INDIVIDUAL PATHWAYS (MIPS)

Ms A Moylan

The role of this working party is to provide programs which aim to help Year 10-12 students build a better picture about themselves, their interests and their abilities, and therefore assist them to make effective decisions as they move from school to further education and training.

The MIPS program for Year 10 and Year 9 Accelerated students has been enhanced this year. Work experience and VCE subject selection are important features, but we have also incorporated a Developing Good Study Skills session in Term 1 and the Careers Fast Track program in Term 2. (Details of CFT were outlined in a previous newsletter)

The three main features of the MIPS program for Year 11 students are: Essentials of Effective Study offered in Term 2, a Tertiary Focus Week organized for July 28 - August 1, and Year 12 subject selection process in Term 3.

Workshops were held in Term 1 to introduce Year 12 students to the VTAC application and selection process. Students had the opportunity to attend a Tertiary Information program on May 28. In May, a program on Preparing for Exams was offered. In term 3 students will be able to attend interviews to discuss their VTAC application before lodging it by the end of September. Workshops on interview practice, resumé writing and stress management will also be available in semester 2.

### ENGLISH KLA REPORT - LITERACY

Ms A Paxinos, English Coordinator

There is much evidence to suggest that the great majority of UHS students perform at a very high level in English. CSF and AIM testing and our excellent results across all VCE subjects, English, Literature and Language, attest to this.

However, it is also apparent that there is, at each level, a small number of students who experience considerable difficulty in all language-based disciplines and who are performing at a significantly lower CSF level than their peers.

One of the main thrusts of English faculty discussion has been to focus on the needs of these students and to develop strategies, particularly in the area of improved teaching and learning, that can be ultimately employed across the curriculum.

To this end, we have undertaken a process of identification of students deemed to be 'at risk'. This information was gathered and collated by Ms Barbara Phillips who also made a number of observations and recommendations and expressed some concerns regarding:

- The obvious difficulty experienced by classroom teachers in dealing with literacy problems given the relatively small allocation of lesson time and the lack of specialist literacy support in the classroom.

- The kind of support that would be most appropriate.

- The need to develop a process for the long term monitoring of students.

- That literacy is a whole school problem and as such all KLAs should be involved in developing teaching/learning strategies.

Given that our main focus, innovative teaching and learning, has been agreed upon, a number of initiatives have been taken:

- Two staff members, one from English and one from SOSE have trained in the 'Bridging the Gap' literacy intervention program.

- All English teachers are to be more actively encouraged to participate in relevant professional development.

- All Year 7/8 English teachers are to participate in a professional development activity, 'The Literacy Journey', with two of our cluster primary schools, Neill St and Errol St. We hope that this will open a more regular professional dialogue and lead to much discussion and open exchange of ideas. The involvement and support of The Middle Years facilitator, Ms Clare Ryan and the newly appointed Middle Years secondary educator, Ms Ann Donoghue, should allow for the development of literacy projects as a follow up to this initial activity.

The English KLA has thus far been involved in a great deal of research, lively discussion and exchange of ideas. We now look forward to the process of consolidating some of these ideas and encouraging the involvement of staff from other KLAs.

#### STOP PRESS!

I also received a report from the group following up the School Charter Priority 2 and investigating ways of improving staff support. Unfortunately there is no space left, so I will hold it over for the next edition. My humble apologies. Ed.

## MATHEMATICS KLA REPORT – NUMERACY

Ms A Donoghue

The Curriculum and Standard Frameworks (CSF) and the Achievement and Improvement Monitor (AIM) as well as excellent results at VCE support the fact that most of the students at University High School perform at a high level in Mathematics.

The Mathematics Faculty recognizes, however, that at each level in Years 7-10 there are a small number of students who experience considerable difficulties in Mathematics. These students in Years 7-10 perform significantly below their peers in the CSF outcomes across all the strands in Mathematics.

### THE MIDDLE YEARS WORKING PARTY

Ms A Donoghue, Convenor

The Middle Years Working Party is a Sub-committee of the Curriculum Committee. In 2003 we welcome three new members to the Working Party. The composition of the Working Party is: Ric Benson, Ros Betson, Ann Donoghue, Mini Paxinos, Daniel Murray, Snjezana Singh, Sue D'Adamo, Anne Miles, Jennifer Unger, Fiona Donohue, Con Andreou and Lou Sciacante. The middle years of schooling are considered to be Years 5-9. The focus of the

To support these students in their study of Mathematics, Mathematics Learning and Improvement Plans have been put in place. Teachers are working towards putting in place teaching and learning strategies that accommodate the needs of these "students at risk".

The development of innovative teaching and learning practices is one of the main focuses of the Mathematics Faculty in 2003. Under the umbrella of the Middle Years of Schooling we will be looking at ways of improving the teaching and learning of all students studying Mathematics at University High School.

Middle Years Working Party is to look at improved teaching and learning strategies at University High School.

In 2003 the Middle Years Working Party will work closely with the Secondary Educator (Ann Donoghue) and the Facilitator (Clare Ryan) for the Schools for Innovation and Excellence Melbourne Cluster<sup>1</sup> on many and varied projects designed to engage middle year students in learning.

### SUB-SCHOOL WORKING PARTY

Ms A Miles

The Sub-School Working Party was established under the School Charter 2002-2004 in July 2002. The role of the working party is to review the discipline and pastoral care policies of the school. The Working Party is made up of the Principal, all sub-school heads and other interested staff. The Working Party has reviewed the Student Code of Conduct and has made minor changes to be incorporated into this document for the 2004 school year. At present, the group is looking at the problem of lateness, the operation of detentions in the school and reviewing the Student Welfare roles in each of the sub-schools.

## YEAR 10 WORKING PARTY

Mr K Campbell

This group was setup in the middle of 2002 as part of the School Charter to review the Year 10 curriculum. About 10/12 staff and one student investigated the curriculum that was being offered at a range of other schools and also constructed and administered an extensive survey to a randomly selected sample of UHS year 10 students during November 2002. This survey asked their opinions on the curriculum offered and other issues at year 10.

In early 2003 these results were analyzed and distributed to all faculty areas for discussion.

There was a wide range of responses but some key comments were that 20% of the students were not at all happy with the range of subjects offered. Another 53% were not fully satisfied.

Faculty groups commented that there were some problems with the survey. Most groups thought that some change was necessary but there was no common agreement on what this should be.

The committee then developed a series of options for possible change. These will be submitted to the curriculum committee on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2003. This committee will continue the discussion of these issues in 2003.

The Working Party recommends that in all further processes

1. That staff should be involved in all discussions.
2. That parents and students should be consulted about any changes
3. Regardless of any changes that there should be a focus on improving teaching and learning.

## SCIENCE NEWS

Ms J Hamilton

Students will have been told of the Young Researchers Winter program at the University of Melbourne in the July school holidays. The course on "Learning and Intelligence in Monkeys and Apes" would be of great interest to many. It would be suitable for students from Years 7- 11. Applications close Friday June 13.

Year 9 students should take note of the Siemens Science Experience that is advertised on this page.

Free ANZAAS talks coming up at the Kaleide Theatre (RMIT) 360 Swanston street at 8 pm are:

August 6: Prof Bob Williamson "The Human Genome Project - medical miracles, ethical dilemmas.

September 3: Dr Martin Burd "The economy of a non-human city: how leaf- cutting ants acquire, transport and process resources"

October 15: Dr Ken Winkel "Secrets of the deadly Irukandji fish"

November 19: Assoc. Prof. Lloyd Hollenberg " Quantum mechanics: from Planck's hypothesis to the new era in quantum computing"

Youth ANZAAS is the national conference for science students in years 9-12. In 2003 it will be held in Melbourne from 7-11 July. Every year six students from each state and territory are selected to participate in three days of science activities and experiences. Download a copy of the application form from the ANZAAS website:

[www.anzaas.org.au](http://www.anzaas.org.au).

### SNOW CAMP '03

Just a reminder that your final payment is due by the end of this term. - GV

## OPPORTUNITY FOR YEAR 9 STUDENTS

The Siemens Science Experience, a three-day hands-on science, engineering and technology program, will be conducted again in Australian universities in 2003/2004 for students who will be entering Year 10 in 2004. Each program includes a wide variety of practical activities, together with interesting presentations by our leading scientists and engineers.

Thirty-four Australian universities will be participating in the national program and students can attend any one. The Siemens Science Experience introduces students to the facilities available in our universities and opportunities for later studies and careers.

The cost of the three-day program is \$90 (includes GST). It is possible that your local Rotary club may assist financially.

The Siemens Science Experience will be available at each of the following Victorian universities:

Cordon Institute of TAFE, Geelong	17-19 September 2003
Swinburne University of Technology, Hawthorn	30 Sept - 2 Oct 2003
University of Ballarat, Ballarat	13-15 January 2004
University of Melbourne, Parkville	13-15 January 2004
Monash University, Clayton	14-16 January 2004
RMIT University, Melbourne	20-22 January 2004
Victoria University of Technology, Footscray	20-22 January 2004

Application forms are available from the Science Department and from [www.scienceexperience.com.au](http://www.scienceexperience.com.au). Early application is advised.

**Any Year 9 student is welcome to attend.**

## STUDENT SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

Ms S Hafey

Congratulations to Andrew Waite of 9S1 who competed in the National Inline Hockey Championships in the April holidays. Andrew's under 14 team came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Championships. Andrew has also been selected to go to the Banff Ice Hockey Academy in Canada. He will be departing our shores later this year. Good luck Andrew!

Also competing at the same National Inline Hockey Championships was Georgia Moore of year 11. Georgia was selected in the women's open team, but unfortunately the team didn't place for a medal. Great effort Georgia!

Florence Ng of 7S2 thought she could slip quietly out of the state to compete in the National Swimming Championships at the start of term 2. Florence put in a fine performance. Watch out next year competitors, she still has another year left in this age group!

*Approaching sports dates are listed in the calendar on page 2.*

## DRAMA NEWS: SPARKIES IN THE BACKSTAGE

Mr K Harper

The new theatre technology group in the school 'The Sparkies' has now been running for one semester using the refurbished backstage area of the hall as an ideal venue.

The term 'Sparkies' is a traditional Australian slang for electricians, but the intentions of this new group in the school are twofold; firstly, to create an informed and trained group of students to set up and operate the technical aspects of live performances in the school; and secondly, to create a forum for the development of skills in stage lighting, stage audio, video, stage management, projections, and set construction.

These workshops have been of particular interest to Drama students working in set design, lighting or sound design, but they are available to all students in the school interested in setting up performance events such as live music performances, exhibitions or environments. The workshops are free but there is an expectation that participants will offer their services to at least one drama or music production during the year. The workshops are currently open to students at Years 9, 10,11 and 12 levels, but this may be extended to junior secondary level if enough interest is shown.

Participation in the group involves attending technical workshops after school on Mondays between 3.30 and 5.00. Skills and knowledge

covered during Semester 1 included an introduction to stage lighting, rigging of lanterns, safe working procedures, use of colour in lighting, and general risk assessment. In the workshops there is a special emphasis on issues of health and safety, treating the stage area as a potentially hazardous workplace. At the outset of the training each student in the group must complete a formal Safety Induction in the form of dedicated workshops and a written questionnaire. The intention here is to bring school practices into line with professional entertainment industry Health and Safety standards. Once students have undertaken this induction they qualify to work on UHS productions that involve stage technology.

Next semester the group will be undertaking several excursions touring The Melbourne Theatre Company workshops to see professional design practice in action, and attending The Showbiz & Entertainment Expo to see the latest in stage technology. Workshops planned for next semester include introduction to basic audio design, lighting design, use of projections, set construction, and further work on the rigging and patching of stage lighting.

Anyone interested in joining the theatre technology group in semester 2 should contact Mr Harper in the Drama Faculty or at:

[ken.harper@unihigh.vic.edu.au](mailto:ken.harper@unihigh.vic.edu.au)

## NOTES FROM THE LIBRARY

Ms Marquard & Mr Castles

"Reading Matters For Teenagers" is a biannual conference organized by the Australian Centre For Youth Literature at the State Library. Fifty of our students attended two events on Thursday, 15th May to hear a range of authors from both overseas and Australia. Year 7 & 8 students, accompanied by Ms Newbold and Ms Featherstone, went to the Athenaeum Theatre to hear Deborah Ellis, Morris Gleitzman and David Almond. Year 10 Literature students went to the State Library, accompanied by Ms Cooper and Ms Marquard, to hear Archie Fusillo, Boori Monty Pryor, Irene Savvides, Anthony Eaton, Julia Lawrinson, Leonie Norrington and Karen Brooks. They were entertained by extraordinary performances by the Monash drama students who were engaging and very funny. The authors spoke about their books and their experiences of writing their stories. Students were able to ask questions and become involved in discussion that were quite wide ranging. The Year 7 students were challenged by Deborah Ellis to try and imagine what it would be like to grow up in a very restrictive society based on her novel, "Parvana", set in Afghanistan under the Taliban. Archie, Boori and Irene all focused on the

influences of their family heritage on their writing. Students were able to buy books for the Library and to have them signed by the authors. These books are now all available for borrowing from the Library.

On Wednesday, 18th June another group of 7-10 students will attend a Booktalkers For Teenagers based around the theme, "Keeping It Real". Authors presenting will be Philippa Burne, Charlotte Calder, Robert Corbet and Bernie Monagle. Some of the students attending will be members of our Book Club, which takes place regularly in our Library at a Wednesday lunchtime every month. Students are welcome to come and talk about books they have enjoyed and be involved in other activities relating to books and writing. These are advertised in the daily bulletin.

And as if you didn't already know...the fifth Harry Potter story will have worldwide release on the 21st June. We are celebrating this event with a Harry Potter quiz. For a mere twenty cents students can enter the quiz and have a chance to win their own copy of the new book.

## YEAR 10 AND BEYOND

### INFORMATION SESSIONS

for

### YEAR 10 STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Year 10 students and their parents are invited to attend an evening information seminar presented by staff from the University of Melbourne. Information covered in the seminar will include choosing subjects for VCE, career outcomes, course options, transition issues, selection and 2006 entry requirements for the University of Melbourne.

Sessions will be held from 6:30 – 8:00pm with three venues and dates to choose from:

Monday 16 June: Mount Waverley Secondary College

Wednesday 18 June (repeat): University of Melbourne (Parkville campus)

Monday 23 June (repeat): St Albans Secondary College

#### Registrations

Registration is required for this free event and will open on Monday 19 May. Online registration and session information will be available at:

<http://www.services.unimeIb.edu.au/admissions/events/year10beyond.html>

While online applications are preferred, participants may also register and obtain session and venue information by calling: 4800 801 662 (free call) from 8:00am - 6:00pm, Monday to Friday.

## KEYS PLEASE

Good drivers aren't born. They are made. And the best way to become a good driver is to get plenty of driving experience.

*Keys Please* is the first step into the driver's seat. It's an informative and interactive forum for you and your parent that introduces you to the different skills you will need when learning to drive, including some valuable tips to help you get that all important licence.

If you can spare 90 minutes, you will be on the road to becoming a better and safer driver. Bring your parents along who will also help you to create a positive and effective driving partnership.

*Keys Please* has been developed by VicRoads, in conjunction with the Victoria Police, the Transport Accident Commission, Department of Education and Training and Community Road Safety Councils.

The University High School will be hosting a *Keys Please* information session for students of years 10 to 12 and their parents on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July, 7:00pm - 8:30pm in the School Performance Centre.

Invitations to students and parents will be shortly sent home. If you have any queries please contact Ms Christine Bozyk on 9347 2022.

*School News* is a publication of The University High School, Story St., Parkville, 3052  
[www.unihigh.vic.edu.au](http://www.unihigh.vic.edu.au)

Telephone (03) 9347 2022 Facsimile (03) 9347 2658

Editor: G Viney

E-mail: [schoolnews@unihigh.vic.edu.au](mailto:schoolnews@unihigh.vic.edu.au)